

15. (Amended) A method for determining the presence of EBV-positive nasopharyngeal carcinoma or gastric carcinoma cells in a sample of an individual suspected of or at risk for carrying an EBV associated disease, comprising:

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- (a) amplifying one or more targets from the BKRF1 reading frame spanning nucleotides 107950 – 109872 of EBNA-1,
 - (b) amplifying one or more target sequence(s) selected from the BARF1 reading frame spanning nucleotides 165504 – 166166,
 - (c) detecting the presence or absence of the amplified target sequences of steps (a) and (b), and
 - (d) determining the presence of EBV-positive nasopharyngeal carcinoma or gastric carcinoma cells from the presence of the amplified target sequences of steps (a) and (b).

16. (Amended) The method according to claim 15 wherein

-the step of amplifying the BKRF1 reading frame in step (a) is performed using a pair of oligonucleotides, each oligonucleotide comprising a sequence specific for **EBNA-1**, the EBNA-1 specific sequences consisting of

5'-CTCCCTTTACAACCTAAGGC-3' [SEQ.ID.NO.: 2], and

5'-AGAGACAAGGTCCTTAATCGCATCC-3' [SEQ.ID.NO.: 3],

wherein the latter oligonucleotide further comprises a T7

polymerase promoter sequence 5'-aattctaatacgactcactataggg-3' (SEQ ID NO:37);

and

- the step of amplifying the BARF1 reading frame in step (b) is performed using a pair of oligonucleotides, each oligonucleotide comprising a sequence specific for **BARF-1**, the BARF-1 specific sequences consisting of

5'-GGCTGTCACCGCTTTCTTGG-3' [SEQ.ID.NO.: 23], and

5'-AGTGTTGGCACTTCTGTGG-3' [SEQ.ID.NO.: 24],

63 wherein the latter oligonucleotide further comprises a T7
polymerase promoter sequence 5'-aattctaatacgactcactataggg-3'
(SEQ ID NO:37).

19. (Amended) An oligonucleotide that is 15-35 nucleotides in length comprising at least a fragment of 15 nucleotides of the BARF1 reading frame spanning nucleotides 165504 -166166 and sequences complementary thereto.

20. (Amended) The oligonucleotide according to claim 19, being 15-35 nucleotides in length comprising at least a fragment of 15 nucleotides of the sequence
- 5'-GGCTGTCACCGCTTTCTTGG-3' [SEQ.ID.NO.: 23], (BARF-1)
and sequences that are complementary thereto.

23. (Amended) A pair of oligonucleotides, for the amplification of a target sequence within an Epstein Barr virus sequence, for use as a set, each oligonucleotide comprising an Epstein Barr virus sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) 5'-CTCCCTTTACAACCTAAGGC-3' [SEQ.ID.NO.: 2], and
5'-AGAGACAAGGTCCTTAATCGCATCC-3' [SEQ.ID.NO.: 3], wherein
the latter oligonucleotide further comprises a T7 polymerase promoter
sequence 5'-aattctaatacgactcactataggg-3' (SEQ ID NO:37) (EBNA-1);
and
(b) 5'-GGCTGTCACCGCTTTCTTGG-3' [SEQ.ID.NO.: 23], and
5'-AGTGTGGCACTTCTGTGG-3' [SEQ.ID.NO.: 24], wherein the latter
oligonucleotide further comprises a T7 polymerase promoter sequence
5'-aattctaatacgactcactataggg-3' (SEQ ID NO:37) (BARF-1).

24. (Amended) An oligonucleotide according to claim 19, being 15-35 nucleotides in length comprising at least a fragment of 15 nucleotides of the sequence

5'-CTGGTTTAAACTGGGCCCAGGAGAGGAGCA-3' [SEQ.ID.NO.:26]

(BARF1),

and sequences that are complementary thereto.

25. (Amended) A test kit for performing a method for determining the presence of EBV-positive nasopharyngeal carcinoma or gastric carcinoma cells in a sample of an individual suspected of or at risk for carrying an EBV associated disease, the test kit comprising:

-one or more oligonucleotides according to any of claims 19-22, 24 and 29, 30, 32 and 33, and

-suitable amplification reagents.

26. (Amended) A test kit according to claim 28, wherein said oligonucleotide probe is 10-35 nucleotides in length and comprises at least a fragment of 10 nucleotides of the sequence set forth as

5'-CTGGTTTAAACTGGGCCCAGGAGAGGAGCA-3' [SEQ.ID.NO.: 26]

(BARF1) linked to the detectable label.

Please add the following new claims:

27. (New) A method according to Claim 15, further comprising detecting the presence or absence of the amplified target sequence of (a).

28. (New) A test kit according to claim 25, further comprising an oligonucleotide probe comprising:

- a nucleic acid sequence substantially complementary to at least part of a nucleic acid sequence amplified with said one or more oligonucleotides such that said oligonucleotide probe hybridizes to the amplified nucleic acid sequence, and

- a detectable label.

29. (New) An oligonucleotide that is 10-35 nucleotides in length comprising at least a fragment of 10 nucleotides of a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

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-5'-CTCCCTTTACAACCTAAGGC-3' [SEQ.ID.NO.: 2], (**EBNA-1**),
-5'-AGAGACAAGGTCCTTAATCGCATCC-3' [SEQ.ID.NO.: 3], (**EBNA-1**),
-5'-CGTCTCCCCTTTGGAATGGCCCCTGGACCC-3' [SEQ.ID.NO.: 5] (**EBNA-1**) and
their complementary sequences.

30. (New) An oligonucleotide according to claim 29 linked to a promoter sequence.

31. (New) An oligonucleotide that is 10-35 nucleotides in length comprising at least a fragment of 10 nucleotides of the sequence

5'-CGTCTCCCCTTTGGAATGGCCCCTGGACCC-3' [SEQ.ID.NO.: 5] (**EBNA-1**), linked with a detectable label.

32. (New) An oligonucleotide being 10-35 nucleotides in length comprising at least a fragment of 10 nucleotides of a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- 5'-CAGGTTTCATCGCTCAGCTCC-3' [SEQ.ID.NO.: 22], (**BARF-1**),
- 5'-AGTGTTGGCACTTCTGTGG-3' [SEQ.ID.NO.: 24], (**BARF-1**),
- 5'-AGCATGGGAGATGTTGGCAGC-3' [SEQ.ID.NO.: 25], (**BARF-1**),
and sequences that are complementary thereto.

33. (New) An oligonucleotide according to claim 32 linked to a promoter sequence.

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34. (New) An oligonucleotide according to claim 19, being 15-35
nucleotides in length comprising at least a fragment of 15 nucleotides of the
sequence 5'-CTGGTTTAACTGGGCCCAGGAGAGGAGCA-3'
[SEQ.ID.NO.:26] (**BARF1**) linked with a detectable label.

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